

**AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111**  
**U.S. APP. NO. 09/854,916**

**REMARKS**

**Summary Of The Office Action**

Claims 1-19 are all the claims pending in the application.

Claims 1-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unptentable over Lea (USP 6,052,750) and further in view of Tajima (JP6-169440).

**Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103**

The invention of claim 1 relates to an audio/video (A/V) system. An example of such a system is shown in Figs. 1A-D. Fig. 1B shows a plurality of module-inserting holes formed in the front of a module rack 16. Function-extending modules for extending the functions of the system may be inserted into the module rack 16. For example, in Fig. 1B, reference no. 17 indicates a hole for inserting a digital video tape recorder. Other modules that may be installed are, for example, a DVD module. A base module receives the control information from the function-extending modules mounted in the module rack, and displays the control information. If user input corresponding to the displayed controlled information is received, the base module sends the user input to a corresponding function-extending module and reproducing source AV data provided by the function-extending module in response to the sent user input.

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Lea relates to a method and system for ensuring future upgradeability and expandability of devices in a home audio video network. Fig. 4 shows elements 302, 303, 304, 401, and 402 connected to a set top box 301. Col., 6, lines 56-59, indicates that an intelligent television might function as the controller for a number of interconnected appliances.

Tajima discloses a television receiver in which one or more modules are easily attachable and detachable. The modules provide different functions.

In rejecting claims 1, 9 and 14, the Examiner likens the claimed one or more function-extending modules to the elements 302, 303, 204, 401, and 402 of Fig. 4 of Lea, and he likens the claimed base module to Lea's controller. The Examiner seems to acknowledge that the claimed module rack into which the function-extending modules are detachably inserted, is not disclosed by Lea. The Examiner, however, applies Tajima as disclosing a television unit which includes a rack where modules can be inserted/removed and which provides a system which overcomes any burden in connecting a plurality of wires/cables with traditional devices. The Examiner concludes that it would have been obvious to modify Lea by utilizing a system which allows the user to connect/disconnect a particular device by the connection/removal of a card.

Applicant submits that claims 1-19, as well as newly added claims 20-42, are not unpatentable over the applied references. One reason for this is that, although Tajima discloses modules that perform different functions that can be mounted together in a television, there is no suggestion to modularize and physically combine a plurality of devices forming a computer network which exhibits a controlling function. At least for this reason, Tajima is not in an analogous art. Rather, the Examiner relies on hindsight reconstruction of the present invention.

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Furthermore, with respect to claims 4 (and its dependent claims 5-9), claim 23, claim 24 (and its dependent claims 27-34) and claim 35 (and its dependent claims 36-38), these claims recite the use of an IP address. The combination of applied references do not teach or suggest this additional feature. By using the internet based communication protocol, it is possible to for these devices to communicate with any internet compatible device located at any location around the world.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

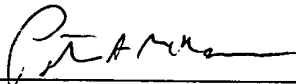
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Date: March 28, 2005